

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Bradford et al.** §
Serial No.: **Not Assigned** § Group Art Unit: **2154**
Filed: **March 12, 2004** § Examiner: **Vu, Viet Duy**
For: **Path Balancing Apparatus and** § Attorney Docket No.: **99-093-MIX**
Method §

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants request that the information listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Office during the pendency of the above entitled application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97.

Please charge any fees necessary for prosecution of the present application to Deposit Account No. 19-4545. If any extension of time is required, such extension is hereby requested. Please charge any additional required fee for extension of time to Deposit Account No. 19-4545. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not constitute an admission that any information cited therein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b). In the interest of full and complete disclosure to the Office, some or all of the art cited herein may not be considered by Applicant(s) or the Undersigned to be material under the new standards of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b), enacted March 16, 1992, but may be material under the old standard of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a), last amended on November 28, 1988, or may merely be technical background which may be of interest to the Examiner. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application, or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits. No fee or certification is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 12, 2004


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| Form PTO-1449 | | | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 99-063-MIX | SERIAL NO. Not Assigned | |
|--|--|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | APPLICANT Bradford et al. | | |
| | | | FILING DATE March 12, 2004 | GROUP ART UNIT 2154 | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NO. | PUBLICATION DATE | INVENTOR NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
| AA | 5,799,173 | Aug. 25, 1998 | Gossler et al. | 395/500 | May 21, 1997 |
| AB | 4,403,286 | Sep. 6, 1983 | Fry et al. | 364/200 | Mar. 6, 1981 |
| AC | 6,317,808 B1 | Nov. 13, 2001 | Berenshteyn | 711/112 | Mar. 26, 1999 |
| AD | 6,393,458 B1 | May 21, 2002 | Gigliotti et al. | 709/203 | Apr. 9, 1999 |
| AE | 6,434,637 B1 | Aug. 13, 2002 | D'Errico | 710/38 | Dec. 31, 1998 |
| AF | 6,167,427 | Dec. 26, 2000 | Rabinovich et al. | 709/201 | Nov. 28, 1997 |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NO. | PUBLICATION DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
| AG | EP0892531 | Jan. 20, 1999 | Europe | H04L 29/06 | X |
| OTHER PRIOR ART (including author, title, date, pertinent page, etc.) | | | | | |
| AH | Colajanni et al., "Analysis of Task Assignment Policies in Scalable Distributed Web-Server Systems", IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems, Vol. 9, No. 6, June 1998, pp. 585-599. | | | | |
| AI | IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, August 1981, Vol. 23, No. 3, "I/O Load Balancing Using Device Connection Timings", p. 1411. | | | | |
| RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL | APPLICATION NO./ ATTY. DOCKET NO. | APPLICANT | TITLE | | FILING DATE |
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| DATE CONSIDERED | | | EXAMINER | | |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | |